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82D CONGRESS
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SENATE

REPORT
No. 1422

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MINGLAN HAMMERLIND

APRIL 8 (legislative day, APRIL 2), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MCCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4397]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 4397) for the relief of Minglan Hammerlind, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant to a minor Chinese child adopted by a United States citizen, the status of a nonquota immigrant, which is the status normally enjoyed by the alien minor children of citizens of the United States.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 12-year-old Chinese girl who was adopted in China in 1945 by Elsa Hammerlind, a United States citizen who was serving in China as a missionary sponsored by the Covenant of Mission Churches in America.

Congressman Gerald Ford, the author of the bill, submitted to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives the following pertinent information in connection with the case:

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., *July 12, 1951.*

Subject: Elsa Hammerlind, American citizen, and Minglan Hammerlind, her adopted daughter.

Hon. GERALD FORD,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. FORD: This letter is in regard to the above subjects which I discussed with you and Cliff Davis of Memphis, Tenn., during my recent visit in Washington. As a referesher, permit me to review the case in fact.

Miss Elsa Hammerlind is our missionary to China, sponsored by our Covenant of Mission Churches in America and supported by our local church in Grand

Rapids, Mich. She is a trained, certified, and registered nurse (further data on this can be obtained in the three letters attached signed by her sisters) and was in charge of our compound in Hupeh Province, China. She did an outstanding work in that Province, caring for the afflicted and teaching them the principles of Christian living. She was cited by Chiang Kai-shek for her humanitarian interests in the Chinese people, during and following the bombing in that area which completely destroyed our entire facilities and necessitated fleeing from that area to a neutral point.

During this bombing, the mother in a family, to which Elsa had endeared herself, had a babe in arms. The mother was fatally injured and in her dying breath begged Elsa to take her baby as her own. Elsa could not refuse this request of a dying mother and took Minglan as her own, later adopting her under the laws of China. To assure her safety as well as that of Minglan, it was necessary to flee China to Hong Kong where they now reside.

I was in the office of our foreign missions secretary, Mr. Ralph Hanson, of the Covenant office in Chicago, last February when cablegrams were sent out to our missionaries instructing them to return at once by any means of transportation available. All others have returened but Elsa who remained in hopes that something could be done so that she could bring her daughter back to the States.

Following my visit with you, we wrote Elsa several letters but apparently the mail has not reached her to obtain the required letter attesting to and certifying Minglan's Chinese adoption. As time is now the essence for you to get Elsa's appeal before the naturalization committee, we are forwarding the following and will send the other information promptly on its receipt.

1. A petition passed and approved by a special meeting of our church including the names of active members who have approved the action to the effect that "We have banded ourselves together to assure the legal adoption of Minglan Hammerlind by Elsa Hammerlind on her arrival in the United States and in the city of Grand Rapids, Mich., and further agree to give them the needed assistance to provide Mingland with an education so that she will become a loyal and worthy citizen of the United States."
2. A letter prepared by our church board.
3. Three letters signed by her sisters.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and trust that you will make your utmost effort in passing of the above and that Elsa and Minglan can be brought back to the United States at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely yours,

W. F. BENSON.

P. S.—I am forwarding copies of the above to the attention of our mutual friend, the Honorable Clifford Davis, of Tennessee.

MISSION COVENANT CHURCH,
Grand Rapids 4, Mich., July 12, 1951.

Subject: Elsa Hammerlind, American citizen, and Minglan Hammerlind, her adopted daughter.

Hon. GERALD FORD,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. FORD: By action of the church board, we enclose herewith a petition which was authorized for the proposed introduction of a bill to permit the entry into the United States of Minglan Hammerlind, adopted daughter of Elsa Hammerlind, our church missionary.

As outlined in previous correspondence with you, Elsa Hammerlind has been supported by our church as a missionary in China since 1920.

Upon her return to this country our church will continue to use Elsa in this city and has agreed to underwrite any additional expense necessary to care for her adopted daughter and her education. We might add that there is already provided a substantial fund for the education of Minglan and this fund will be replenished continuously during the progress of Minglan's educational endeavor.

It is agreed that every effort will be made on our part to see that legal proceedings to legalize the adoption of Minglan to conform to our laws will be made by Elsa.

By action of the church board taken July 11, 1951.

Respectfully yours,

SANFORD E. CARLSON, *Secretary.*
ELMER W. LAGO, *Chairman.*

To all to whom these presents shall come, I, James Malcolm Hall, notary public, duly authorized and sworn, residing and practicing at Victoria in the Colony of Hong Kong, do hereby certify that Elsa Maria Hammerline, the person named in the paper, writing, or statutory declaration hereunto annexed, did duly and solemnly declare to the truth thereof before me on the day of the date thereof, and that the name "Elsa M. Hammerlind" thereto subscribed is of the proper handwriting of the said Elsa Maria Hammerlind.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal of office this 7th day of July 1951.

[SEAL] J. M. HALL, *Notary Public, Hong Kong.*

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF A FEMALE CHILD MINGNAN HAMMERLIND (FORMERLY CALLED CHANG MINGNAN) AND IN THE MATTER OF THE STATUTORY DECLARATION ACT 1835

I, Elsa Maria Hammerlind of 548 Valley Avenue NW., Grand Rapids, in the State of Michigan, in the United States of America, at present temporarily residing at 10A Castle Peak Road, Tsun Wan, in the New Territories of the British Colony of Hong Kong Missionary, do hereby solemnly sincerely and truly declare and say as follows:

1. In February 1945 in Nanchang in the Province of Hupeh in China I with the formal consent of Chang Hong Hsuen her father formally adopted as my child a female child (now aged 12 years) who was formerly named Chang Ningnan and is now named Mingnan Hammerlind.

2. I have been bringing up the said child since she was a baby after her mother was killed by Japanese bombing in China.

3. I am desirous of bringing the said child with me to the United States of America when I return there in the near future and I agree and undertake to comply with the Michigan adoption law in respect of my adoption of the said child as my child.

And, lastly, I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared at Marina House, Victoria, Hongkong, this 7th day of July 1951.

ELSA M. HAMMERLIND.

[SEAL] J. M. HALL, *Notary Public, Hong Kong.*

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 4397) should be enacted.

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